

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A computer-readable medium or propagated signal having embodied thereon a computer program configured to generate data subscriptions, the medium or signal comprising one or more code segments configured to:

- 5       access information identifying a type of data to be distributed to data sites;  
      access information identifying a distribution criterion that defines the basis upon which the type of data is to be distributed to the data sites;  
      access application data of various data types; and  
      generate data subscriptions in a network of distributed computer systems

10       operating an application program having the application data of the various data types, wherein each data subscription 1) is generated based on the type of data to be distributed to data sites and the distribution criterion and 2) identifies a portion of the application data to be distributed to one or more of the data sites.

15       2. The medium or signal of claim 1 wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

      access information related to data sites wherein the data site information includes attributes and attribute values associated with a particular data site; and

      associate a particular data site with a particular data subscription based on the data  
20       site information being related to the portion of application data to be distributed in the particular data subscription.

3. The medium or signal of claim 1 wherein the type of data to be distributed to data sites comprises a business object type.

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4. The medium or signal of claim 1 wherein the type of data to be distributed to data sites comprises a publication.

5. The medium or signal of claim 1 wherein:

the distribution criterion comprises an attribute of the type of data to be distributed, and

the generation of data subscriptions comprises generating data subscriptions wherein each data subscription is generated based on the attribute of the type of data to be distributed to data sites.

6. The medium or signal of claim 1 wherein:

the distribution criterion comprises a distribution criterion based on a relationship of a portion of the application data with an employee that uses a data site, and

the generation of data subscriptions comprises generating data subscriptions wherein each data subscription is generated based on the relationship of the portion of the application data with the employee that uses the data site.

7. A system for generating data subscriptions, the system comprising:

a central system having a central database storing application data of various data types for an application program and storing data subscriptions to receive portions of the application data; and

distributed systems having local databases of which at least some local databases include different portions of the application data from the central database,

wherein the data subscriptions for types of application program data are automatically generated based only on (1) the application data and (2) a distribution criteria for a type of application data.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the central system also stores assignments of data subscriptions to distributed systems such that each assignment identifies a particular data subscription and a particular distributed system that is to receive a portion of the type of application data that corresponds to the distribution criteria for the type of application data included in the data subscription.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein assignments of data subscriptions are automatically generated based on (1) the application data and (2) the distribution criteria.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein the central system also stores assignments of employees to distributed systems such that each assignment identifies a particular employee and a particular distributed system that is to receive a portion of the type of application program data that corresponds to the particular employee based on the distribution criteria for the type of application program data included in the data subscription.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein assignments of employees are automatically generated based on (1) the application data and (2) the distribution criteria.

12. The system of claim 7 wherein the distribution criterion comprises an attribute of the type of data to be distributed.

13. The system of claim 7 wherein the distribution criterion comprises a distribution criterion based on a relationship of a portion of the application data with an employee that uses a data site.

14. The system of claim 7 wherein the type of data to be distributed to data sites comprises a publication.

15. A method for generating data subscriptions, the method comprising:  
accessing information identifying a type of data to be distributed to data sites;  
accessing information identifying a distribution criterion that defines the basis upon which the type of data is to be distributed to the data sites;  
accessing application data of various data types; and  
generating data subscriptions in a network of distributed computer systems operating an application program having the application data of the various data types, wherein each data subscription 1) is generated based on the type of data to be distributed to data sites and the distribution criterion and 2) identifies a portion of the application data to be distributed to one or more of the data sites.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
accessing information related to data sites wherein the data site information  
includes attributes and attribute values associated with a particular data site; and  
associating a particular data site with a particular data subscription based on the  
5 data site information being related to the portion of application data to be distributed in  
the particular data subscription.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the type of data to be distributed to data  
sites comprises a business object type.

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18. The method of claim 15 wherein the type of data to be distributed to data  
sites comprises a publication.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein:  
15 the distribution criterion comprises an attribute of the type of data to be  
distributed, and  
the generation of data subscriptions comprises generating data subscriptions  
wherein each data subscription is generated based on the attribute of the type of data to be  
distributed to data sites.

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20. The method of claim 15 wherein:  
the distribution criterion comprises a distribution criterion based on a relationship  
of a portion of the application data with an employee that uses a data site, and  
the generation of data subscriptions comprises generating data subscriptions  
25 wherein each data subscription is generated based on the relationship of the portion of the  
application data with the employee that uses the data site.